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QUEENS PASTOR SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR RAPE OF TWO YOUNG SISTERS IN BASEMENT OF CHURCH
Victims Were Just 12 And 14 Years Old At Start of Two Year Sexual Abuse

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 56-year-old Queens Village minister has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for raping two girls who were members of his congregation. The sexual abuse began with the 14-year-old victim in July 2011 and continued with one or both of the girls through May of 2013.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant took advantage of his position as a man of the cloth and the trust placed in him by his followers to satisfy his depraved desires. Through manipulation and conniving control, he sexually abused his two young victims for nearly two years. What the defendant forced his victims to endure was horrendous and as punishment he now will be spending a lengthy term behind bars.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Reuben Chizor, 56, of Springfield Boulevard in the Queens Village section of Queens. Following a week-long trial in June 2017, a jury found Chizor guilty of one count each of first- and second-degree rape and first-degree sexual abuse and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child. Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice James B. Latella, who presided at trial, today sentenced Chizor to 15 years in prison to be followed by 10 years of post release supervision.

District Attorney Brown said that according to trial testimony, on July 27, 2011, Chizor took the 14-year-old victim to the basement of his church, which is also his residence, and raped her. On August 22, 2011, Chizor took the 14-year-old victim’s sister, who was 12 at the time, to the same church basement and raped her. The abuse continued for years with one or both of the girls through May of 2013. In July 2015, the girls confided in each other that the church pastor had raped them. At that time, the police were notified.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew J. Sweet, of District Attorney Brown’s Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Kenneth M. Appelbaum, Bureau Chief, Eric C. Rosenbaum and Debra Lynn Pomodore, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel Saunders and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Brad Leventhal.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.